

Conservation FAQs

1. Can you recharge storm water?

Unfortunately, no. Storm runoff is considered surface water, which has legal rights and allocations associated with it.

2. Has a water utility used wastewater for drinking water?

No utility or city has implemented direct potable reuse of wastewater in Arizona. However, the city does reuse effluent for irrigation purposes.

3. How do I know how much to water my outdoor plants?

Depending on the type of landscaping you have in your yard will depend on how much water is required to keep them thriving and healthy. You can get step-by-step guides to outdoor plant, lawn and landscape watering on the [Landscape Watering Guide](#) web page.

4. How does the ‘Drought Declaration’ affect Buckeye?

Under the DCP, a Tier 1 Shortage declaration would result in about a 25percent reduction. A Tier 2 shortage would result in a 50percent reduction, and none of the water would be available under a Tier 3 shortage. The possibility of a Tier 1 shortage is very likely to be declared within the next few years.

The reduction in Colorado River water supplies could also increase the cost or reduce the availability of Colorado River water supplies to recharge the aquifer, resulting in an increase in CAGRDC costs to residents or an increase in CAGRDC’s use of treated wastewater to recharge the aquifer. If more treated wastewater is used to recharge the aquifer, there could be less treated wastewater available for landscape irrigation.

In addition, unlike Buckeye, which relies mainly on pumping groundwater from wells, many Valley cities rely heavily on Colorado River water to supply water to residents. If Colorado River water supplies are reduced, other Valley cities and farmers could increase their use of groundwater pumped from wells. This could result in more competition for groundwater supplies and dropping groundwater levels. As a result, Valley residents (including Buckeye residents) could be subjected to new legislative measures that would enforce mandated conservation efforts with individuals and business owners.

5. What are some of the ways I can conserve water in my home and yard?

A variety of water conservation information is provided on the city's [Conservation](#) web page as well as [Water Use IT Wisely](#). You can also contact the city's Conservation and Education Specialists at 623-349-6121.

6. What is the difference between a water leak and water loss?

A water leak is a break in your water system (such as a pipe, valves, fixtures or sprinkler head) located inside your home or outside in your yard that must be repaired.

Water loss is when water is used unintentionally, such as leaving a hose on or scheduling a drip system to water too often or too long.

The city of Buckeye provides a [one-time leak adjustment](#) to customers when accompanied by the appropriate receipts that document the repairs made. Please contact customer service at 623-349-6100 for additional information on a "leak adjustment."

7. What is the Drought Contingency Plan?

The Drought Contingency Plan, or DCP, is an agreed upon strategy that multiple states who share Colorado River water have agreed to implement should a supply shortage arise. The plan includes a combination of strategies for monitoring the progression of the drought and preparing a response to potential water supply shortages resulting from severe drought.

8. What is the Drought Declaration?

Only the governor of Arizona can make a [Drought Declaration](#). It's based on constant monitoring of certain weather conditions and key indicators. The Arizona Department of Water Resources along with other state, regional and federal partners monitors these conditions. The State of Arizona assigns the following drought Intensity: No Drought, Abnormally Dry, Moderate Drought, Severe Drought, Extreme Drought, and Exceptional Drought.

9. Why can't Buckeye use surface water from the Salt, Gila, Colorado or Hassayampa rivers?

- a. **Salt River** - Buckeye is not in the Salt River Project service area.
- b. **Gila River** - Buckeye does not have an entitlement to the Gila River since it was allocated to other cities and Indian Communities many years ago.
- c. **Colorado River** –Buckeye has a 280 acre-foot Colorado River water (CAP water) allocation which decreases 14 acre-feet per year until the year 2035, when it reaches 25 acre-feet per year. This water is currently delivered to the Sun City Festival golf course. Buckeye has been approved to receive a 2,786 acre-foot Non-Indian Agricultural CAP water allocation, but about 25% of it would not be available if a Tier I shortage is declared. Fifty percent of this allocation would not be available under a Tier 2 shortage, and none of it would be available under a Tier 3 shortage.
- d. **Hassayampa River** – The Hassayampa is a dry river in Buckeye.

10. Will the city help me find a leak?

Yes. Thanks to our new Automated Meter Infrastructure (AMI) technology, Utility Billing staff have access to a comprehensive amount of data coming from your meter and can help you pinpoint the day of the week or hours that you use the most water. If you have a concern about your water bill, please start by contacting customer service at 623-349-6100, press 2. A customer service representative will assist you in determining if a technician is needed to check the meter equipment.